IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11-14, 17, 18, 20-25, 28, 29, 31-33, and 38-40, without prejudice.

4. (Thrice Amended) The guide wire according to claim 3 wherein the magnet on the distal end comprises a plurality of magnets on a distal end section of the guide wire in spaced apart relation allowing the guide wire to assume a shape under control of the magnetic field.

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10. (Thrice Amended) The combination according to claim 9 wherein the magnet on the distal end comprises a plurality of magnets on a distal end section of the guide wire in spaced apart relation allowing the guide wire to assume a shape under control of the magnetic field.

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15. (Thrice Amended) A method of navigating a medical device through a body lumen to a desired location within the body, the method comprising:

providing a medical device having a lumen therethrough, the lumen having a proximal end and a distal end;

inserting a guide wire having a proximal end and a magnetic distal tip, the distal tip of the guide wire being made from a flexible magnetic material, through the lumen of the device until at least a portion of the magnetic distal tip extends distally beyond the distal end of the lumen in the medical device;

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inserting the medical device and guide wire into a lumen in the body;

navigating the medical device through the lumen in the body by applying a magnetic field to orient the magnetic tip in the desired direction of travel;

advancing the guide wire in the direction in which the magnetic tip is oriented; and

advancing the medical device over the guide wire; wherein the magnetic tip of the guide wire comprises a distal section of the guide wire being made from a flexible magnetic material.

16. (Twice Amended) A method of navigating a medical device through a body lumen to a desired location within the body, the method comprising;

providing a medical device having a lumen therethrough, the lumen having a proximal end and a distal end;

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inserting a guide wire, having proximal end and a magnetic distal tip comprising a plurality of magnets secured on the distal end section of the guide wire in spaced apart relation allowing the guide wire to assume a shape under control of the magnetic field, through the lumen of the device until at least a portion of the magnetic distal tip extends distally beyond the distal end of the lumen in the medical device;

inserting the medical device and guide wire into a lumen in the body;

navigating the medical device through the lumen in the body by applying a magnetic field to shape the magnetic distal tip in the desired configuration to the orient the magnetic tip in the desired direction of travel;

advancing the guide wire in the direction in which the magnetic tip is oriented; and

advancing the medical device over the guide wire.

19. (Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the step of navigating the medical device comprises successively incrementally advancing the guide wire and the medical device.

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27. (Twice Amended) In combination with a guide wire having a proximal end, a distal end, and a magnetic distal tip, the magnetic distal tip comprises a plurality of magnets on the distal end section of the guide wire in spaced apart relation, the portion of the guide wire adjacent the distal end being sufficiently flexible to allow the magnetic

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tip to move in response to an applied magnetic field, but the proximal section of the guide wire being sufficiently stiff to advance a medical device through a lumen in the body, a medical device having proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending substantially to the distal end of the device, the guide wire extending into the lumen of the medical device with the magnetic distal tip in the distal end of the lumen in the medical device.

30. (Amended) The combination according to claim 26 wherein the lumen of the medical device has a stricture therein for engaging the guide wire and retaining the guide wire in the lumen of the medical device.

34. (Thrice Amended) A method of navigating a medical device through a body lumen to a desired location within the body, the method comprising:

providing a medical device having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending to substantially the distal end of the medical device;

inserting a guide wire having proximal end and a magnetic distal tip into the lumen until the magnetic tip is substantially adjacent the distal end of the medical device, the magnetic tip of the guide wire comprises a plurality of magnets secured on the distal end section of the guide wire in spaced apart relation;

inserting the medical device and guide wire into a lumen in the body;

navigating the medical device through the lumen in the body by applying a magnetic field to orient the magnetic tip inside the lumen of the medical device so that the distal end of the medical device is oriented in the desired direction of travel; and

advancing the guide wire and medical device in the direction in which the distal end of the medical device is oriented.

35. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 34 wherein the magnetic tip comprises a permeable magnetic material.

36. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 34 wherein the magnetic tip comprises a permanent magnetic material.

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37. (Amended) The method according to claim 34, wherein the step of navigating the medical device comprises successively orienting and advancing the guide wire and medical device.

41. (New) The method according to claim 16 wherein the step of navigating the medical device comprises successively incrementally advancing the guide wire and the medical device.

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42. (New) The combination according to claim 27 wherein the lumen of the medical device has a stricture therein for engaging the guide wire and retaining the guide wire in the lumen of the medical device.